

CAREFUL!! Beluga Whale Present

It is unlawful to interfere with the natural behavior of marine mammals in U.S. waters.

Watch responsibly.

Have you seen a beluga whale?



Courtesy Michael Moore, WHOI



Courtesy The Whale Stewardship Project

12-15 ft
long, light
gray to
white, no
dorsal fin,
bulbous
head, short
beak, teeth

CALL 609-266-0538

**Marine Mammal Stranding Center
or the USCG on VHF Channel 16**

Report the Following:

- * **Location:** Where you saw it
- * **Description:** Behavior, condition
- * **Document (from a distance):** photos/video

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibits the "taking" of marine mammals. The term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, kill, or feed, or attempt any of these activities. Northeast regional guidelines for safe dolphin watching apply: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/MMWatch/protectdolphins.htm

Do Not Approach the Beluga: Resist the urge to interact with the whale. Observe the whale from a safe distance of at least 150 ft.

Do Not Touch: Marine mammals carry diseases which may be transmissible to humans. <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/mmz/Occupational%20Safety.htm>

Do Not Get into the Water: Although belugas are not known to be aggressive, they do have teeth and can ram hard with their noses. Even a playful nip or nudge may be dangerous for you and the whale.

Do Not Feed the Beluga: The whale needs to keep its hunting skills sharp and needs time to eat uninterrupted.

Do Not Interfere With Natural Behavior: Move away slowly if you cannot avoid the whale.

For more on belugas:

<http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/CetaceanAssessment/BelugaWhale.html>

<http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/education/cetaceans/beluga1.htm>